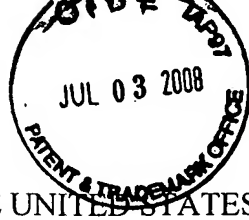


P29712.A06



ITW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Akihiro YASUDA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2852

Appln. No. : 10/575,356

Examiner: R. M. Gleitz

Filed : April 11, 2006

Confirmation No. : 1651

For : FIXING APPARATUS

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, and supplemental to the Information Disclosure Statements that were previously filed on April 17, 2008, February 25, 2008 and July 6, 2006, Applicants hereby bring to the attention of the Examiner a Japanese Office Action dated April 8, 2008 with respect to patent family member Japanese Patent Application No. 2005-514737 in which the following documents were cited:

- (1) Japanese Patent Publication No. HEI 10-74009 A;
- (2) Japanese Patent Publication No. 2003-7438 A, together with an English language Abstract and partial English language translation thereof;
- (3) Japanese Patent Publication No. 2000-268952 A, together with an English language Abstract and partial English language translation thereof;
- (4) International Patent Publication No. WO 03/039197 A1; and
- (5) Japanese Patent Publication No. 2002-40843 A.

The relevance of these documents, as ascertained with respect to the Japanese claims by the Japanese Examiner, is set forth in the Japanese Office Action.

Applicants note that above-noted documents (1), (4) and (5) were previously cited in the Information Disclosure Statements of July 6, 2006 and February 25, 2008, and thus copies of documents (1), (4) and (5) are not provided herewith.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of above-noted foreign documents (2) and (3), including the noted English language Abstracts and translations, are attached hereto, and are listed on an attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of the Japanese Office Action and English language translation are also attached hereto. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form, and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicants note that this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted subsequent to the issuance of a Non-Final Office Action on the merits, but before the issuance of a Final Office Action on the merits. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d), Applicants hereby certify that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement (i.e., above-noted documents (2) and (3)) was first cited in any communication from an foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement. Thus, no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

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Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

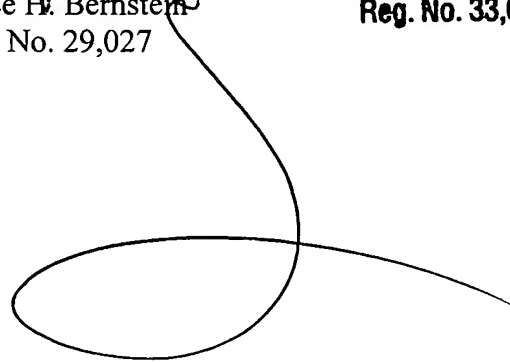
Respectfully submitted,
Akihiro YASUDA et al.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Pieprz", written over a horizontal line.

Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

William Pieprz
Reg. No. 33,630

June 24, 2008
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191

A large, stylized handwritten flourish or signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop and a long horizontal stroke.